18th August 1956]

Running of bus services by the Chamber of District Boards

* 139-K Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the reasons for rejecting the requests of the Chamber of District Boards during the year 1956 to run bus services in the districts?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : There is no provision in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, under which the District Boards can be permitted to run bus service on a monopolistic basis and it is not advisable for district boards to undertake the enterprise of running bus service, as it will be difficult and financially risky for them to compete with private operators.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : சட்டத்திலே இடம் இல்லாவிட்டாலும் தகுந்தபடி மாற்றியமைக்கலாம். பண வசதியுள்ள முனிசிபாலிடிகள் பஸ் சர்வீஸ் நடத்துவதற்கு அனுமதி கேட்டால், சர்க்கார் ஏன் கொடுக்கக் கூடாது என்று கேட்கிறேன்?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் பஸ் சர்வீஸ் நடத்திக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது அவர்களுக்குப் போட்டியாக நகர சபைகள் நடத்தினால், நகரசபைக்கு அவ்வளவு லாபகரமாக இருக்காது என்று அரசாங்கம் கருதுகிறது.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Is the Hon. the Minister aware that the Constitution has been recently amended permitting local bodies to run bus services on a monopoly basis to the exclusion of other private owners?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : Notice, Sir.

Trifurcation of Malabar district

* 139-L Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned the trifurcation of the Malabar district for Revenue and Police purposes; and

(*b*) if so, the headquarters of these three proposed districts.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : There was a recent statement in the popular newspaper *Mathrubhoomi* that there was a proposal before the Travancore-Cochin and the Madras Governments to trifurcate the Malabar district and that various details were also furnished to them. May I know whether the Government are aware of this at all?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There has not been any formal proposal made to us by the Travancore-Cochin Government for the trifurcation of Malabar. A casual mention was made about

this when I was talking with the Adviser to the Travancore-Cochin Government. But I do not know whether any positive steps are being taken in that direction.

General Elections

* 2 (SHORT NOTICE) *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have suggested to the Central Government during 1956 any new method of voting during the coming general elections; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) The Election Commission has invited the remarks of the State Governments about the introduction of the system of marking on ballot papers of voting at elections in Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in select areas (*e.g.*, urban areas where the literate classes preponderate) in the next general elections. It is proposed to inform the Commission that the new scheme may be tried as an experimental measure in all the constituencies in Madras City alone in the next general elections.

(*b*) Under the new system the names (and if possible, symbols) of the candidates will be printed on the ballot paper and the elector will have to place a mark secretly against the name of the candidate of his choice and then fold the ballot paper so as to conceal the mark or marks from observation. One ballot box only will be kept in full view of the presiding officer, the candidates and their agents and the elector will insert the ballot paper into the ballot box within their view. The detailed procedure to be followed will have to be worked out by the Government of India in consultation with the Election Commission, and prescribed by suitable amendments to the rules.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : In the light of the experience we have gained—viz., that this kind of marking on the ballot paper is very cumbersome in the sense that if there are twelve candidates in a constituency, all the twelve symbols allotted to those candidates have got to be printed on the paper with the result the illiterate voter will be confused while marking the symbol of the candidate for whom he wants to vote—will the Government of Madras advise the Central Government not to adopt this system which will not be an improvement on the system adopted at the previous elections?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is why the Government of Madras have recommended to the Central Government and to the Election Commission that this could be tried in the City constituencies where there is a greater amount of literacy and where the voters are better-informed.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : The Government have felt that each candidate being allotted a box has led to abuse in that the